Degraded lands in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers, reclamation of alkali sols, Watershed Development Project in shifting Cultivation Areas (WDSCA), National Project on Development and Use of Biofertilisers, Promotion of Integrated Pest Management, National Project on organic farming, promotion of zero tillage and drip and sprinkler irrigation, contribute to addressing the potential adverse impact of climate change.

Extinction of birds of rare species in NE

1084. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the North-Eastern States were ones the habitats of many exotic and majestic animals and beautiful birds, which are facing extinction;

(b) if so, whether Government have enquired into this problem; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Large number of species that are listed in Schedule I of Wild Life(Protection) Act, 1972 are found in North Eastern States. Due to biotic pressure and loss of habitat there have been reports about decline in number of many of these species.

(c) The steps taken to improve the situation are—

- Funds have been earmarked for the North Eastern States under the scheme "Development of national parks and sanctuaries".
- Minister of Environment and forests had taken a meeting at Gahati regarding conservation of forests and wildlife in North Eastern States.

Funds to States for conservation of forests

†1085. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated by Government to States for conservation of environment and afforestation during the Ninth five Year Plans State-wise; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the funds utilised so far which State are yet to utilise the funds and the reasons therefor and the instructions issued to States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Area of forest cover

1086. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forest Survey of India has of late, prepared a report on the forest cover of India by remote sensing satellites;

(b) if so, when it was last made, the percentage of forest cover in each State determined on the basis of this survey, the comparative corresponding figures brought out by the earlier three surveys, indicating the percentage decline of forest cover and the reasons for the decline; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to improve the forest cover, indicating the safe forest cover in each State and the steps envisaged and targets contemplated under the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Forest Survey of India is assessing forest cover of the country biennially since 1987. Report of last assessment was published on 5th June, 2000 as State of Forest Report, 1999. State-wise details of last four assessments are given in the enclosed statement (*See* below). unsustainable withdrawals to meet the demands of the increasing population is one of the main reasons for marginal decline in forest cover.

(c) National Forest Policy, 1988 envisage 33% of land area under forest/tree cover. Under Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Ministry, a target of 6.80 lakh hectares of afforestation is contemplated in the Tenth Five Year Plan. Various steps taken for increasing forest cover in the country are:

(i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State Governments/